



*Always Ready
Always There*

The Gem State Guardian

The official newsletter of the
Idaho National Guard

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Gowen Field firefighters conduct 'live-burn' training with Boise City Fire Dept.

By Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney

Firefighters from the Gowen Field Fire Department battled flames and smoke alongside Boise City Fire Fighters in a "live-burn" exercise at an abandoned home turned training grounds on Beverly St. off of Victory Rd. in Boise, Idaho Nov. 1.

Fire Chief Ryan York and five Gowen Field firefighters: Tech. Sgt. Damon Williams, Staff Sgt. Matthew Harrington, Staff Sgt. Matthew Logue and Senior Airman Reginald Pierce were initially to provide resupply using tender at the exercise. As the day went on, they were incorporated into incident command, ventilation, search/rescue, fire attack and overhaul. The team also practiced shuttle operations with the tender.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Matthew Harrington

ABOVE Staff Sgt. Matthew Logue, and another Gowen Field firefighter take a breather after a long battle with a house fire during a 'live-burn' exercise conducted jointly with firefighters from both Gowen Field and the Boise Fire Department.

BELOW Firefighters from the Gowen Field Fire Department battled flames and smoke alongside Boise City firefighters in a "live-burn" exercise at an abandoned home-turned training ground in Boise, Idaho Nov. 1, 2013.



"This operation met our live burn requirement as well as the requirement to train with mutual aid fire departments," explained Master Sgt. Christopher Brearley, deputy fire chief with the Gowen Field Fire Department. "It also solidified our knowledge of tender operations."

The firefighters also conducted follow on nighttime water shuttle operations with Boise Fire and other local agencies 12-16 Nov. at a Boise School District complex training location on Victory Rd.
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(cont'd from page 1) The department trains several times a year with mutual aid departments, which are other local fire departments like Boise, Kuna, and Eagle that have reciprocal response agreements with Gowen Field. In the case of a large fire, they can call on Gowen Field for additional support and vice versa.

The firefighters also respond to off-base plane crashes.

They conduct joint tabletop exercises at the Boise Airport or at a department training room covering a variety of scenarios. They are also scheduled to conduct structural collapse training with Boise's technical rescue team in the near future.

"Training with local fire departments allows us to work out interoperability issues in a controlled environment rather than trying to figure things out on the fly during a real world incident," said Brearley.

In the past, the firefighters have responded to off-base grass fires, motor vehicle accidents requiring extrication on the freeway and house fires. In 2008, Gowen Field firefighters responded with approximately 40 other fire crews from throughout the valley to a four-alarm fire in the Columbia Village subdivision that took one resident's life, destroyed 10



A firefighter from the Gowen Field Fire Department battled flames and smoke during a "live-burn" exercise at an abandoned home-turned training opportunity in Boise, Idaho Nov. 1, 2013.

houses and damaged nine others. Fire crews worked with law enforcement to evacuate residences and contain the fire.

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